

and in recent years their role has extended beyond just putting out fires. Today, firefighters serve as the first responders for medical emergencies, provide search and rescue services to victims trapped in burning or collapsed buildings, handle hazardous materials and extract injured persons from car accidents. Above all else, they provide hope to those in need in times of danger and despair.

I have met many of the men and women who serve as firefighters in the first district of Connecticut, and I am proud to represent such brave and dedicated public servants. Each and every day, these selfless heroes give their all to protect our communities and our families. I thank them for their service and urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 188.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 188, a resolution to honor and recognize firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation. As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I commend the service and honorable duty firefighters across the country provide to our communities. I am especially proud of the firefighters and fire departments that protect and look after the 12th Congressional District of Illinois.

For the fire service to maintain a strong voice in the federal discourse on homeland security issues, we must have a strong U.S. Fire Administration and sufficient funding for personnel, vehicles, and equipment. As a result, I have continually supported the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program and have been very successful in helping many departments in Southern Illinois secure grants to improve their operations each fiscal year. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of several bills in the 109th Congress to aid firefighters and fire departments to ensure they are properly equipped to protect themselves and their communities.

I am pleased the House of Representatives is considering H. Res. 188 today, and urge my colleagues to support the passage of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand today in support of H. Res. 188 which recognizes and honors our nation's firefighters for the many contributions throughout our nation's history. Their great efforts range from ground support following the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York to relief efforts following the Tsunami of the Coast of Ache Indonesia. Not only do our nation's firefighters contribute on an international scale, but they also support our local communities in times of need and distress.

In January of this year, in my district, I joined forces with local humanitarian organizations, and federal, state, and local officials to conduct a medical relief drive for the Tsunami (in Indonesia) victims. To this end, I also worked closely with the City of Houston's Fire Department. They were very instrumental in helping to receive medical supplies and other items for the victims. My sincerest thanks goes out to Fire Chief Phil Boriskie and to the City of Houston for their efforts and strong commitment to providing relief for Tsunami victims.

Currently there are over 1.1 million firefighters in our nation, and 75 percent are volunteers. These are individuals who put their life on the line everyday. They deserve all the honor and notoriety we can give them.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1460) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1460

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1460, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may require.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1460, which I introduced to recognize the bravery and selfless dedication of Captain Mark Stubenhofer.

Captain Stubenhofer was born in Fairfax, Virginia, on April 18, 1974. He grew up there in the suburbs of this great capital of freedom, and he was an all-American from the start.

Mark delivered newspapers in the morning before school. He worked long after the school day ended doing homework or practicing baseball. He attended West Springfield High School in West Springfield, Fairfax County, and he attended Nativity Catholic Church nearby.

He was elected student government vice president at West Springfield and played varsity baseball. After graduation, he went on to Clemson University where he honed his leadership skills through the school's ROTC program. He graduated from Clemson in May of 1996 and immediately began fulfilling his obligation to the Army.

Captain Stubenhofer was commissioned as an infantry officer and attended both the elite Airborne and Ranger schools. He went on to serve two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his first tour in 2003, he helped liberate five Iraqi cities. In his second tour, Captain Stubenhofer served as a company commander for the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He was awarded numerous medals and honors, among them two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal and two Army Commendation Medals.

Madam Speaker, during his final tour of duty, Captain Stubenhofer's third child was born, a daughter he asked his beloved wife Patty to name Hope. As he commented in his last phone conversation to his parents, the reason for the name was that it was hope that brought him to Iraq in the courageous service of his country. Tragically, Captain Stubenhofer never met his daughter Hope. He was killed in combat on December 7, 2004.

Madam Speaker, we owe Captain Mark Stubenhofer, and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

While we pay homage to fallen heroes like Mark with memorials or post offices, the most fitting tribute is the enduring memory of their lives.

As Pericles, the greater orator, builder and general of Athens, said, for to famous men, all the Earth is a sepulcher, and the virtues shall be testified not only by the inscription in stone at home, but by an unwritten record of the mind which more than any monument will remain with everyone forever.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to forever remember Captain Mark Stubenhofer and to keep a record in our minds and hearts of the great works and sacrifices that all of our sons and daughters of the military continue to make on our behalf. Captain Stubenhofer was one of America's finest.

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His deeds and sacrifices will forever be remembered by his friends and family and by a grateful community in

Springfield, Virginia, who share with me their pride in having his name enshrined on our local post office.

I thank the Virginia delegation for their unanimous support of this resolution, and I ask all Members to pass H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join our chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), in the consideration of H.R. 1460, legislation naming the U.S. postal facility in Springfield, Virginia, after Captain Mark Stubenhofer. This measure, which has been sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, was introduced with the support and cosponsorship of the entire Virginia delegation.

Captain Mark Norman Stubenhofer died on December 7, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire. Captain Stubenhofer, a company commander, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. Captain Stubenhofer, a native of Springfield, Virginia, was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed.

Mark Stubenhofer graduated from West Springfield High School in 1992. In high school, he was a student government leader, member of the homecoming court, and baseball player. After high school, Mark went on to graduate from Clemson University with a degree in history in 1996. Mark joined the Army after graduating from college. While in the Army, he was certified as an Army Ranger and jump instructor. He earned the Bronze Star during his first tour of duty in Iraq.

He left behind a wife, Patty, and three children, Lauren, Justin, and Hope. Madam Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for seeking to honor the sacrifice of Captain Stubenhofer by naming a postal facility in his honor in his hometown. I urge swift adoption of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1460.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of April 5, 2005, and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 190) honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 190

Whereas His Holiness Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, and on October 16, 1978, was elected the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church, making history by becoming the first Pope from Poland and the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years;

Whereas Pope John Paul II dedicated his long life to the peace and well-being of mankind;

Whereas Pope John Paul II risked his own life by defying the Nazi forces which occupied Poland during World War II and protecting its Jewish population, while trying to inspire faith in the oppressed;

Whereas Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland in June 1979, unleashing a patriotic and religious force that would ultimately lead to the peaceful toppling of the Communist regime in Poland;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was a unique, substantial, and historic catalyst in the demise of Soviet communism and the emancipation of hundreds of millions of people from totalitarian rule;

Whereas Pope John Paul II used public and private diplomacy and the power of moral suasion to encourage world leaders to respect the inalienable rights of the human person;

Whereas Pope John Paul II articulated the importance of individual liberty being undergirded by a "moral order", embraced the poor and oppressed masses of the world, and encouraged governments and the faithful to attend to the needs of those who are less fortunate;

Whereas Pope John Paul II ministered to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, providing a personal example of grace, endurance, compassion, courage, sacrifice, and foresight;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was an articulate and outspoken advocate for religious freedom and Christian humanism, asserting that the Catholic Church could not claim religious liberty for itself unless it was willing to concede it to others;

Whereas Pope John Paul II sought to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths, expressing sadness and regret for the acts of individual past and present Catholics who persecuted others on account of their faith, and promoting reconciliation through dialogue with Jews and Muslims and through visits to areas of historic conflict, including Ireland and the Holy Land;

Whereas Pope John Paul II traveled more extensively than any other Pope, traversing nearly three-quarters of a million miles, vis-

iting more than 125 countries, being seen by more people than any person in human history, and ministering to more than six million people at once in the closing mass of World Youth Day 1995 in the Philippines;

Whereas on January 8, 2001, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert, presented Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award that Congress can bestow upon any individual;

Whereas in November 2003 the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 313, which called upon the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II;

Whereas on June 4, 2004, President George W. Bush traveled to the Vatican and presented Pope John Paul II with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States Government;

Whereas, even as Pope John Paul II struggled to regain his physical strength after suffering failings in his physical condition in early 2005, he continued to minister to the faithful, while suffering with grace and in silence; and

Whereas up until the moment of his death on April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II remained faithful and principled, inspiring a continuing defense of the unique dignity of every human life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II;

(2) expresses gratitude for the life of Pope John Paul II and the innumerable blessings manifested through his service;

(3) commends the life's work of Pope John Paul II, recognizing his enduring and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace in the world;

(4) expresses condolences to the people of Poland for the loss of such an inspirational figure in Poland's transformation from a totalitarian regime to democratic government;

(5) extends its heartfelt sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world, including more than sixty-six million Catholics in the United States, who looked to Pope John Paul II as Supreme Pontiff; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to reflect on the life of Pope John Paul II during the worldwide period of remembrance following his death.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with a request that the Secretary transmit it to the Papal Secretary of State at the Vatican.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 190, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?